

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
Finance Committee
February 27, 2018

Called to order in with the Selectboard at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Ned Wolf with Gloria Fisher, Kathy Inman, Jeff Simmons and Jan Carr present.

Tim Lively met with combined boards. The heat in the school is now set to 55 degrees – the bathrooms had been set higher. The cafeteria thermostat needs to be on to keep the kitchen warm. District money for school maintenance is \$45,000 and we've spent \$35,000 thus far. Freezers and parking lot lights are only things that are on. Jonathan has obtained a \$2,000.00 grant for his workshop that will be paid to the Town from the District. A special account for the school has been opened.

Broadband Liaison Interviews

Bill Tucci offers great flexibility. He has network experience with wireless systems in Third World countries. He has designed systems for Verizon and done a bit of fieldwork. He has worked chiefly in NY. Not that familiar with our situation. He can work with engineers and construction crews, also zoning and planning boards. He knows a bit of autocad. Brian pointed out that this is a clerk of the works position and not to insert one's self in the design & engineering process.

Bob Bourke has a background in construction and has a Bachelors Degree from UMass, as does Bill Tucci. Bob has strong communications skills, knows the town and its boards, and can do a budget. He has lived here for ten years, cares about Heath and would advocate for it. He is flexible and has a good rapport with construction workers. He has a mechanical background from the Navy. He has been following the coverage of MBI, broadband and WiredWest.

SALARY for position is coming from the Operations: We are allowed to use up to 12% or \$42,000. This position is that of a subcontractor, not sure yet how to pay, hourly?

PARKS AND REC UPDATE

Bob reported that we have received a \$5,000 forest and Audubon grant for the Shapiro land. Originally 244 acres, modified to 308 by Alice, of that 108 acres are surveyed.

Moved to the Assessors' Office at 8:05

Heath is receiving \$80,000 for three years rather than \$60,000 for four years from the District. The Fincom should review average usage oil and electricity for building-in-use vs not-in-use. Could we use VOIP rather than Verizon? What is Direct Energy Business? Gloria is going to the next School Use Committee meeting.

Minutes

Motion made by Jan to accept 1/23 minutes as amended, Gloria seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Stipends

Aim for end of the month for stipend completion. Firefighters used to be classified as volunteers, not sure if they still are. Not on salary therefore not eligible for COLA. Level funding the budget is a difficult task.

Follow-up on the drop in assessment for high-tension lines. Maybe depreciation? Letter comes out in March.

Hourly pay for broadband liaison may not be the best way.

We may consider one technology stabilization fund rather than multiple department funds.

Gloria moved to adjourn. Jeff seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The FinCom meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Carr